

**REMARKS**

Claims 1 through 20 and new Claim 21 are pending in the application.

Claim 1 has been amended to emphasize that the inventive edible coatings advantageously include a mixture of at least one edible binder and one or more of solid aroma substances, liquid aroma substances, dyes or flavorings. Support for this amendment can be found in the Application-as-filed, for example on Page 4, lines 1 through 11 and Page 8, lines 25 through 30.

Claim 2 has been amended to conform to Claim 1.

Claim 12 has been amended to correct a typographical error.

Claim 21 has been added to complete the record for examination and highlight particularly advantageous embodiments of the invention.

Claim 21 is directed to advantageous inventive food casings formed from a support layer consisting of a textile layer which incorporates an edible coating. The edible coating includes a mixture of at least one edible binder and one or more of solid aroma substances, liquid aroma substances, dyes or flavorings. The edible binder adheres to the textile less strongly than to a proteinaceous foodstuff and the textile consists of a woven fabric, knitted fabric, consolidated nonwoven or spunbonded nonwoven. Support for Claim 21 can be found in the Application-as-filed, for example in on Page 8, lines 25 through 34 and Claims 1, 2 and 6.

Reexamination and reconsideration of this application, withdrawal of all rejections, and formal notification of the allowability of the pending claims are earnestly solicited in light of the remarks which follow.

*The Claimed Invention is Patentable  
in Light of the Art of Record*

Claims 1 through 4, 6, 7, 10 through 12, 13, 14, 15 through 17, 19 and 20 stand rejected over published European Patent Application EP 408164 (EP 164). Claims 1 through 3, 5 through 10, 15, 16 and 18 stand rejected over United States Patent No. 5,085,890 (US 890).

Applicants respectfully submit that the cited references do not teach or suggest the claimed invention.

EP 164 is directed to food transfer sheets that include a web, a "size" layer, and a separate food material layer. (Figure 1 and Page 2, lines 27 – 29). The size layer is expressly noted as water soluble. (Page 3, lines 22 -23) This water soluble size layer is subsequently weakened by processing moisture, allowing transfer. (Page 3, lines 26 – 28). EP 164 indicates that the food material is deposited onto the surface of the sized matrix and subsequently fixed thereon. (Page 3, lines 33 – 36). EP 164 notes that the food material is preferably uniformly deposited "on" the sized web. (Page 3, lines 37 – 38).

Applicants respectfully submit that EP 164 does not teach or suggest the claimed invention.

EP 164, disclosing a food material as a separate layer on multiple occasions, specifically does not teach or suggest the recited coatings comprising a mixture of edible binder and solids or flavorings, as recited in the claims as-amended.

EP 164, requiring water soluble resins, also fails to teach or suggest such coatings that are essentially water-insoluble, as further recited in the claimed invention.

EP 164, whose impetus is transfer based on moisture attacking the size, most certainly does not teach or suggest such coatings comprising at least one edible binder which adheres to the textile support material less strongly than to a proteinaceous foodstuff, as recited in Claim 2 and newly added Claim 21.

Accordingly, Applicants respectfully submit that EP 164 does not teach or suggest the claimed invention, considered either alone or in combination with the remaining art of record.

US 890 is directed to film-based casings having a transferable, water-soluble printing. (Col. 1, lines 25 – 32 and Col. 6, lines 24 - 42). Similar to US 890, the water-soluble printing is disposed as an individual layer between a binder-sealant and the casing. (Col. 3, lines 30 – 45 and Col. 4, lines 23 - 27). US 890 expressly notes that the inner surface of the binder-sealant is bonded to the food and the colorant is adhered to the outer surface of the binder-sealant. (Col. 5, lines 25 – 30).

Applicants respectfully submit that US 890 does not teach or suggest the claimed invention.

US 890, disclosing the printing as a separate layer on multiple occasions, specifically does not teach or suggest the recited coatings comprising a mixture of edible binder and solids or flavorings, as recited in the claims as-amended.

US 890, whose impetus is the printing of film-based casings, further does not teach or suggest the recited textile support layers, much less such textile supports comprising a coating.

And US 890, solely directed to film casings, most certainly does not teach or suggest the advantageous casings formed from supports consisting of the recited textiles, much less such textiles further containing coatings incorporating a mixture of edible binders and solids and/or flavorings, as recited in newly added Claim 21.

Accordingly, Applicants respectfully submit that US 890 likewise does not teach or suggest the claimed invention, considered either alone or in combination with the remaining art of record.

Consideration of Previously Submitted Information Disclosure Statement

It is noted that an initialed copy of the PTO/SB/08A that was submitted with Applicants' Information Disclosure Statement filed August 1, 2006 has not been returned to Applicants' representative with the Office Action. Accordingly, it is requested that an initialed copy of the PTO/SB/08A form be forwarded to the undersigned with the next communication from the PTO. In order to facilitate review of the references by the Examiner, a copy of the Information Disclosure Statement and the PTO/SB/08A form are attached hereto. Copies of the cited references were provided at the time of filing the original Information Disclosure Statement, and, therefore, no additional copies of the references are submitted herewith. Applicants will be pleased to provide additional copies of the references upon the Examiner's request if it proves difficult to locate the original references.

**CONCLUSION**

It is respectfully submitted that Applicants have made a significant and important contribution to the art, which is neither disclosed nor suggested in the art. It is believed that all of pending Claims 1 through 21 are in condition for allowance. It is requested that the Examiner telephone the undersigned if any questions remain to expedite examination of this application.

It is not believed that extensions of time or fees are required, beyond those which may otherwise be provided for in documents accompanying this paper. However, in the event that additional extensions of time and/or fees are necessary to allow consideration of this paper, such extensions are hereby petitioned under 37 CFR § 1.136(a), and any fee required is hereby authorized to be charged to Deposit Account No. 50-2193.

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Respectfully submitted,

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I hereby certify that this correspondence is being electronically transmitted to the United States Patent and Trademark Office PAIR System on December 8, 2008.

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